



U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys transforms to meet expected quadruple population growth

by Andre D. Butler

U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys in the Republic of Korea is undergoing one of the largest transformations in the history of the Army. It's also well on the way to becoming the Army's premier place to live, work and play, said Brig. Gen. Al Aycock, commanding general of Installation Management Command, Korea Region.

For years, Camp Humphreys was known as a very quiet and small post. With the decision to relocate all of U.S. Forces Korea south of Seoul, that image is rapidly changing. By 2012, Camp Humphreys will be the new home of USFK.

Located in Pyeongtaek, Korea, about 55 miles south of Seoul, USAG Humphreys is home to the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, military intelligence units and several other organizations. The current population of fewer than 10,000 — about 3,500 are Soldiers, the rest civilian employees, Family members and contractors — will grow to more than 44,000 by the time transformation is complete in 2012.

The 2012 population will include 17,000 service members and 13,000 Family members. The garrison will also see a substantial increase in the number of Army civilians, Korean national employees and contractors.

Relocation plan comes to life

The plan to realign U.S. forces in Korea and transform USAG Humphreys has been in the works since 2002, according to Fred Davis, program manager for the Army Relocation office at USAG Humphreys.



The new extension to the Humphreys Lodge will double the number of rooms in the facility and include conference space and other amenities to support a variety of training, temporary duty and recreational needs. Photos by Edward Johnson

"We are accruing 2,320 acres from the Korean government," Davis said. "And now we are in the process of implementing construction plans needed for the upgrade."

The expansion is all part of the Yongsan Relocation and Land Partnership Plan. It outlines the broad directions, goals and objectives to accomplish the transformation of USAG Humphreys and other locations to meet the stationing requirements for USFK. The plan encompasses a comprehensive facilities requirement for the relo-

cation of units and missions from the Seoul area and the region north of the Han River to Humphreys.

Gen. B.B. Bell, USFK commanding general, explained the coming transformation and the challenges the command faces. ➤

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ROK	Republic of Korea
USAG	U.S. Army Garrison
USFK	U.S. Forces Korea

(continued from previous page)

"It was a good project; a hard project," Mackey said. "But it highlighted the strength of the Huntsville Center: when no one else can do the job, we will find a way to get it done."

The timeframe was very short, and Mackey had to handle customer expectations aggressively.

"We had to make sure data drops were correctly placed and that furniture was where it needed to be," he said.

"Even though it was August to September, and we were busy, seeing that we were able to help the wounded Soldiers and know we were helping make a difference made the project all the more worthwhile," Mackey said, thinking back to the day in the cafeteria.

"I couldn't leave that day without thanking that Soldier for his service."

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Construction has already started on newly acquired land adjacent to Camp Humphreys. Before engineers can build on the former rice paddies they must first drain them of water; conserve the topsoil, seal the surface with a porous barrier and raise the ground with fill material.

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"To support the realignment of U.S. forces, the Republic of Korea has committed significant resources to acquiring land for the relocation of our current Yongsan Garrison in Seoul and the 2nd Infantry Division north of Seoul under the Land Partnership Plan," Bell said. "This has not been politically easy, and the efforts of the ROK government and Ministry of National Defense deserve recognition."

The U.S. will return 59 vacated camps, along with all their facilities, buildings and land to the Korean government, while USFK consolidates into two main hubs south of Seoul, said Bell.

"Thus far, 30 camps have been returned," he said. "After consolidating and transforming, our forces will be in a much better position to support ROK defense and U.S. national interests."

Normalization of tours

The USAG Humphreys Real Property Master Plan is another intricate part of the transformation. It is the "blueprint" that outlines the land, buildings and facilities required to support relocated missions.

The master plan coincides with Bell's goal of "normalizing" tours of duty in Korea. His vision is to provide stable tours for married and single service members and world-class support facilities to make the tours personally and professionally rewarding. This goal will be achieved by constructing state-of-the-art Family housing and support facilities.

The new facilities will allow Humphreys to burnish its reputation as a community of excellence, staffed with committed professionals, who provide for the diverse needs of service members stationed in Korea.

Camp Humphreys is well on its way to becoming one of the Army's premier centers of readiness and support, according to Aycock.

"It is paramount that we provide the best support possible for our Soldiers and their Families," Aycock said. "They deserve it, and we are committed to making this a world-class installation — master planned from start to finish with Soldiers and Families in mind."

Building up, not out

A key aspect of the master plan is making the most of the existing and newly acquired land to support the expected population growth.

Although Humphreys is growing in physical size — from the current 1,200 acres to 3,500 by 2012 — the total land area, even with the new land transferred by the Korean government, will not support a massive sprawl of buildings like a continental-U.S. post. Consequently, the philosophy is to "build up instead of out." Family housing units, barracks and many of the other new facilities on post will be multi-story buildings.

This philosophy is not new, according to Paul Cramer, IMCOM-Korea Public Works Division chief.

"By embracing local construction methods common to Korea, including high-rise structures and underground parking, we are optimizing land space in order to conserve our natural resources, an effort that is in direct support of our cooperative alliance with the Republic of Korea," Cramer said.

And so, a new, modern military installation will rise on land where rice has been grown for generations.

"What we are doing is creating a new city from the ground up," said Davis. "It's not everyday that you are charged with a project of this magnitude. So our goal is to build a model Army community that will be unlike any other the military has seen. This project is an estimated \$8.25 billion deal — larger than any project that's on the table in the states today."

Barracks, vehicle maintenance and company operations complexes are being built. The complexes will include Soldier barracks, dining facilities and recreational centers — all within walking distance from the Soldiers' new worksites. Six new state-of-the-art gyms are also being constructed throughout the installation.

Three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school are scheduled to be built. The schools will be within the community in which Families live. This location will make it safer and more convenient for students to attend.

One facility that is already open for business is the new aquatics park. Dubbed "Splish & Splash," the park opened Memorial Day weekend. It is the first, and to this date the only, of its kind open to service members, civilian employees and Family members throughout the Korean peninsula. The park was designed by IMCOM-Korea to provide all of the excitement, safety and Family fun of popular water parks in the states and is one of the new facilities geared toward making life more enjoyable at Camp Humphreys. ➤



An Army Family member points out his favorite slide at the Camp Humphreys' Splish & Splash water park, one of the newly constructed facilities that are helping to make Korea an "assignment of choice."

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The master plan also calls for construction of an 18-hole golf course and jogging, biking and walking trails.

Not your father's Korea

As the master plan took shape, officials who briefed the plan often said that the post would become unrecognizable to the Soldiers who served one-year tours in Korea in the past.

"This will not be your father's Korea," said Col. Michael J. Taliento Jr., the former USAG Humphreys commander who oversaw the beginning of significant change on the installation. "All of the Quonset huts that we used to put our Soldiers in will be gone."

The Quonsets — corrugated metal buildings that became an unofficial signature of the Army in Korea — have been replaced by gleaming high-rise facilities that house Families and service members

in comfort.

"Quality of life here will flourish," said Bart Mirabal, Humphreys' director of Public Works. "A new child development center is already underway. We are building more chapels for the expected population and open fields for Families to enjoy however they please."

USAG Humphreys will build a new commissary and post exchange shopping complex as well as a food, beverage and entertainment center. And, the existing downtown shopping area is getting a face lift, Mirabal said.

"There will also be smaller shopping centers within the individual housing communities," he said. "We are creating a very Family-friendly environment."

Col. John E. Dumoulin Jr., USAG Humphreys commander, went further.

"We are taking what used to be a single-Soldier post and transforming it into

a Family- and pedestrian-friendly community," Dumoulin said. "Soldiers will be able to walk to work instead of having to travel across post; kids will be able to walk from their homes to school; Humphreys will become the 'assignment of choice' for Soldiers and civilians."

But, one thing that will not change with the Humphreys transformation is the garrison's guiding philosophy.

"We will continue to provide world-class customer service for our Soldiers, Families, civilians and retirees," Dumoulin said.

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